



June

"Nature is the greatest artist."
Albert Einstein

Learning About Basil Growth!
For a basil plant to thrive, it needs:

Light: Basil requires at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight daily, which is easily available in Cyprus's sunny climate.

Soil: It prefers well-drained, nutrient-rich soil with a pH close to 6.0-7.0. Cypriot soils can be enriched with compost for better growth.

Water: Basil needs regular watering to keep the soil moist but not overly wet. In Cyprus, it's best to water early in the morning or late in the afternoon to reduce evaporation.

Fertilization: Basil thrives in nutrient-rich soil to support leaf growth. Natural fertilizers can be used to enrich the soil.

Temperature: Basil grows best in temperatures between 20°C and 30°C. Cyprus's warm summer temperatures are ideal for basil cultivation.



QUIZ!

Basil

The Secrets of Basil and the Environment

1. How long does it take for basil to grow after being planted?

- A) A few days.
- B) A few weeks.
- C) A few months.

2. Why is basil important for the environment?

- A) It's the favorite plant of most insects.
- B) It helps improve soil quality with its leaves and branches.
- C) It provides shelter for small animals and insects.

3. Which part of basil can you use to grow a new plant?

- A) The fruit.
- B) The seed.
- C) The leaf.



Learn About the Different Types of Basil!

There are many types of basil around the world! Here are some main varieties that are suitable for cultivation in Cyprus:

Sweet Basil:

The most common type of basil with large, aromatic leaves. It's often used in cooking, especially in Italian cuisine.

Holy Basil:

Also known as Tulsi, this basil has medicinal properties and is used in traditional medicinal practices.

Lemon Basil:

With a light lemon fragrance, this basil is often used in Asian cuisines and salads.

Thai Basil:

Widely used in Thai cuisine, it has a licorice-like flavor.

Purple Basil:

This basil has a deep purple color, making it decorative as well as useful in cooking.

These varieties each bring unique flavors and uses, making basil a versatile plant to grow!



Endemic Plant of Cyprus



Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Information: The chaste tree is a shrub with small purple flowers that thrives in the summer.

Endemic Animal of Cyprus



**Cyprus Green Toad
(*Pseudepidalea viridis cyprica*)**

Information: The green toad is an amphibian with a vibrant green color and distinctive spots.